



TO: Rules, Policy, and Governance Committee

FROM: Ashley N. Thomas, General Counsel, Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

DATE: July 25, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 Commission LEA Policy Updates

Commission staff has worked to review, update, and align policies based on the 2024 legislative session and business operations. The below information summarizes the material updates for Commission consideration:

**1. 1800 School Calendar**

- Introduces language prohibiting a school from altering their previously approved calendar from without prior approval by Commission staff;
  - Any school calendar totaling less than 180 is required to make up the days at the end of the school year;
- Updates language related to the use of stockpile days

**2. 2200 School Operating Budget**

- Clarifies how schools are to submit annual budgets to the Commission

**3. 2201 Line Item Transfer Authority (REPEAL)**

- Not required for Commission business and reduces burden on schools

**4. 2400 Revenue and School Fees**

- Requires school support organization policy for accounting, controlling, and safeguarding any money, materials, property or securities collected/dispensed by the organization

**5. 2401 Gifts and Bequests**

- Updates reporting requirements for school receipt of gifts

**6. 2805 Purchasing of Contracts**

- Removes contract bidding and approval requirements based on city population

**7. 3201 School Safety**

- Requires a school safety team to include a local law enforcement official;
- Requires schools to develop a fire alarm activation procedure;
- Requires each school to implement de-escalation training created by the Department of Safety;
- Requires each school to implement an intervention program which includes conflict resolution for grades 1-6

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

Davy Crockett, 8<sup>th</sup> floor • 500 James Robertson Parkway • Nashville, TN 37243

Office: 615-532-6245

**8. 3202 Emergency Preparedness**

- Requires schools to develop a cardiac emergency response plan, which includes maintaining at least 1 AED within the school

**9. 3400 Transportation**

- Requires schools that provide transportation to post notice on each bus which prohibits any unauthorized person from entering onto the school bus

**10. 4207 English Learners**

- Changed reference from WIDA to ELPA, in alignment with Tennessee standards update

**11. 4213 Artificial Intelligence (NEW)**

- Requires schools to adopt an AI policy which shall be reported to the DOE annually

**12. 4400 Instructional Materials**

- Updates library collection review language with newly passed 60-day timeline

**13. 4502 Parent Involvement**

- Requires schools to adopt a code of conduct for visitors on school grounds

**14. 4603 Promotion and Retention**

- Requires schools to notify parents of all grade 3-4 students of the promotion/retention requirements at the beginning of each school year;
- Updates third grade promotion language to mirror new legislation;
  - Notification on pathways to 4<sup>th</sup> grade promotion must be identified by signed consent forms

**15. 4605 Course Credits and Graduation**

- Removes outdated language regarding early graduation for high school students

**16. 6300 Security**

- Requires schools that provide transportation to post notice on each bus which prohibits any unauthorized person from entering onto the school bus

**17. 6303 Reporting of Crimes**

- Introduces school personnel threat assessment requirements where a student threatens mass violence on school property or at a school-related activity

**18. 6305 Title IX and Sexual Harassment (NEW NUMBER)**

- Requires schools to provide notice of nondiscrimination to students, parents, guardians, employees, and applicants for admission or employment;
  - Notice must be post on the website and in each handbook, catalog, announcement, and application form;

- Updates policy to detail Commission grievance procedures for any Title IX complaints

**19. 6309 Zero Tolerance**

- Introduces threat assessment language for a student who threatens mass violence on school property or at a school-related activity;
  - Includes clarifying language around SWD

**20. 6313 Student Discipline Policy**

- Updates requirements to be included in schools' discipline policies/codes of conduct

**21. 6317 Remands and Student DHA**

- Updates the disciplinary actions available to a school's DHA

**22. 6400 Student Wellness and Health Services**

- Requires school leaders with an opioid antagonist on campus to ensure storage in accordance with manufacturer's instruction;
- Requires Commission approved high schools to develop an athletics emergency action plan

**23. 6403 Communicable Diseases**

- Removes outdated language regarding student admission and participation in a school setting

**24. 6409 Child Abuse**

- Updates information required to be submitted to the Department of Children's Services at the beginning of each school year;
- Updates judicial information for Rutherford County Commission approved schools for reporting purposes

**25. 6506 Surrogate Parent Policy (NEW)**

- Sets forth circumstances which necessitates a surrogate parent for children with disabilities;
- Sets forth responsibilities for surrogate parents;
- Details qualifications for a surrogate parent;
- Requires schools to adopt a policy and procedures for the recruitment, training, and assignment of a surrogate parent, including notice to the Commission of such assignment within 14 calendar days